

7550 Sunwood Drive NW • Ramsey, MN 55303

City Hall: 763.427.1410 • Fax: 763.427.5543

[www.cityoframsey.com](http://www.cityoframsey.com)

August 7, 2018

Anoka County Highway Department  
Attn: Jack Forslund, Transportation Planner  
1140 Bunker Lake Blvd. NW  
Andover, MN 55304

Jack:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Anoka County 2040 Transportation Plan. Ramsey has enjoyed a good relationship with Anoka County, especially as it relates to key transportation issues. We commend Anoka County for leading many priority transportation initiatives, especially the Highway 10 Access Planning Study and Greater MN Gateway Initiative.

## Ramsey Vision and Land Use Plan

Ramsey has established five Priority Goals for future land use over the next 20 years. Each of these goals carries equal weight, and there is no priority order.

- A Balance of Rural Character and Urban Growth
- A Connected Community
- An Active Community
- Smart, Citizen-Focused Government
- Financial Stability

## Future Growth Forecasts

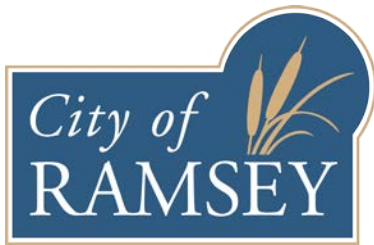
Ramsey is requesting an amendment to its future growth forecasts as outlined below. These revisions are subject to the approval of the Metropolitan Council and may be revised downward.

	2016	2020	2030	2040
<b>Households</b>	8,973	9,500	11,500	13,500
<b>Population</b>	26,251	27,550	33,350	39,150
<b>Employment</b>	6,334	6,900	7,800	8,400

## Future Land Use Plan

As part of Ramsey's ongoing public engagement and land use planning efforts, we have amended our Future Land Use Plan since work commenced on the Anoka County 2040 Transportation Plan. A copy of our Future Land Use Map and TAZ Allocations are attached to this letter. Of particular note, a new business park has been established

*It is our mission to work together to responsibly grow our community,  
and to provide quality, cost-effective, and efficient government services.*



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west of Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83. This should be reflected in the Freight section of the Anoka County 2040 Transportation Plan.

## Highway Projects

### U.S. Highway 10/Greater MN Gateway

Ramsey extends its thanks and gratitude to Anoka County for its leadership in Transportation Planning for Highway 10. Ramsey supports the current vision and prioritization for this corridor as laid out in the Highway 10 Access Planning Study and the Anoka Solution.

Ramsey has initiated the Ramsey Highway 10 Plan to set up the corridor for success moving forward and continuing the positive momentum experienced thus far. Our current priorities include, but are not necessarily limited to the following (in no priority order):

- Full Access Grade-Separated Interchange at Sunfish Lake Boulevard/CSAH 57
- Full Access Grade-Separated Interchange at Ramsey Boulevard/CSAH 56
- Reduced Conflict U-Turn Intersection at Bowers Drive
- Reduced Conflict U-Turn Intersection at Alpine Drive
- Removal of uses on north side of U.S. Highway 10/169 west of Ramsey Boulevard
- Pedestrian Bridge on Central Anoka County Regional Trail at Northstar Commuter Rail – Ramsey Station
- Frontage Roads to support interchange and removal of private, direct accesses on U.S. Highway 10/169

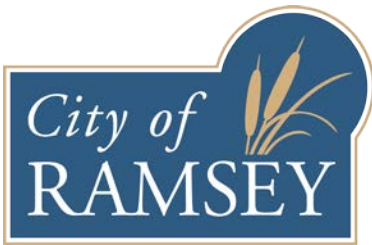
### Mississippi River Crossing

The Plan is absent any meaningful planning for a Future Mississippi River Crossing. Ramsey acknowledges that this future improvement is absent in Thrive2040, the Regional Development Framework. However, large transportation projects take leadership of local communities to drive priorities.

Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 has been designed to ultimately become the corridor for the future Mississippi River Crossing. With that in mind, Ramsey objects to the potential Jurisdictional Transfer of this corridor south of Bunker Lake Boulevard.

### Saint Francis Boulevard/TH 47 Study Revival

On or about 2016, a joint study for Trunk Highway 47 was initiated covering the cities of Ramsey and Anoka. This plan was never fully adopted, and many of these alternatives are no longer valid. Ramsey would recommend refreshing this study to advance the alternatives.



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Ramsey would recommend initiating this study in 2019.

Ramsey acknowledges the STIP Funding Application for the intersection of Bunker Lake Boulevard/CSAH 116 and Saint Francis Boulevard/TH 47. Ramsey commends Anoka County for taking the lead on this initiative and looks forward to supporting this project.

#### Nowthen Boulevard/CSAH 5 Corridor Study

Within the next ten year planning period, Ramsey desires to jointly complete a Corridor Study for the Nowthen Boulevard/CSAH 5 Corridor. Congestion on Trunk Highway 47/Saint Francis Boulevard is creating significant delays and safety concerns along this corridor. Significant growth and the opening of a new elementary school in 2019 emphasize the need to complete key safety improvements at key nodes.

Ramsey objects to any potential jurisdictional transfer of this corridor south/east of Sunfish Lake Boulevard/CSAH 57 without a long-term plan for both the CSAH 5 and TH 47 corridors.

Ramsey would suggest initiating this study in 2019.

#### Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83

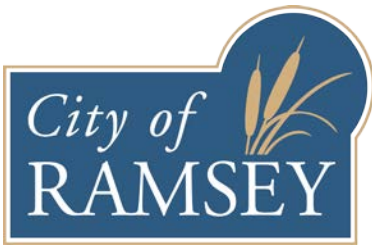
Ramsey desires to study specific spot improvements along the Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 5 Corridor. Ramsey does not believe a full Corridor Study is warranted along this corridor, but the completion of ICE Reports at key intersections.

- Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and Alpine Drive
- Armstrong Boulevard/CSAH 83 and 161<sup>st</sup> Avenue (Ramsey Central Park/Game Fair Entrance)

Ramsey would prioritize Saint Francis Boulevard/TH 47 and Nowthen Boulevard/CSAH 5 Corridor Studies over this corridor. However, given the smaller scope of study, Ramsey hopes that this study can be advanced quicker.

#### Green Valley Road/CR 63

During Ramsey's Public Engagement for our 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, we heard several comments about safety along Green Valley Road/CR 63. As Ramsey continues to grow, this general corridor is shaping up to be a major East/West Connection, another key goal of our community. Many of these comments seemed to be focused on pedestrian safety. Ramsey is planning some trail linkages in the general area. However, many of respondents noted that even the addition of paved shoulders would be a relatively low-cost, high-benefit improvement for the corridor.



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### 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue/CR 64

Additionally during Ramsey's Public Engagement for our 2040 Comprehensive Plan Update, we heard several comments about safety along 181<sup>st</sup> Avenue/CR 64. Many of these comments seemed to be focused on pedestrian safety, noting that even the addition of paved shoulders would be a relatively low-cost, high-benefit improvement for the corridor.

## Multi-Modal Projects

### Northstar Commuter Rail

Ramsey supports the ongoing operation of the Northstar Commuter Rail. As opportunities present themselves and continued growth occurs in Ramsey, we would like to continue to plan for circulator transit service. Additionally, we look forward to the completion of the Mississippi Skyway pedestrian bridge along the Central Anoka County Regional Trail. This pedestrian bridge will serve as a rail station enhancement, adding ridership with access to the south side of Highway 10.

### Central Anoka County Regional Trail

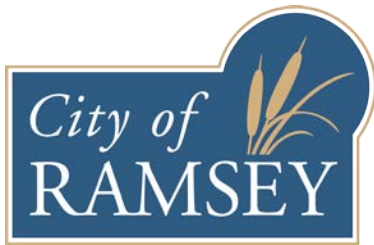
Ramsey extends its thanks and gratitude for Anoka County's support of the realignment of the Central Anoka County Regional Trail from the Ramsey Boulevard to Ramsey's Downtown Area. . This will improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists. Ramsey also looks forward to continued support from Anoka County in obtaining funding for this important regional improvement that connects so many regional transportation systems, with a single project.

### Rum River Regional Trail

Within the next ten year planning cycle, Ramsey would like to explore a realignment of the planned Rum River Regional Trail. Ramsey believes there are more destinations along Trunk Highway 47, providing better connections to regional facilities. Ramsey would recommend completing this analysis prior to 2023, to be included in the next Regional Development Framework and System Plans.

### Regional Trail Search Corridor: Trott Brook Corridor

Within the next ten year planning cycle, Ramsey would like to explore the addition of a Regional Trail Search Corridor, or a relocation of an existing search corridor. Ramsey believes that this corridor provides an excellent opportunity to connect multiple regional facilities. Ramsey would recommend completing this analysis prior to 2023, to be included in the next Regional Development Framework and System Plans



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Sincerely,

CITY OF RAMSEY

Tim Gladhill  
Community Development Director

CC: James Dickenson, Andover City Administrator (re: Rum River Regional Trail Alignment)  
Joseph Janish, Andover Community Development Director (re: Rum River Regional Trail Alignment)  
Bret Heitkamp, Champlin City Administrator (re: Mississippi River Crossing)  
John Cox, Champlin Deputy City Administrator (re: Mississippi River Crossing)  
Tina Goodroad, Dayton City Administrator/Development Director (re: Mississippi River Crossing)  
Katie Walker, Hennepin County Comprehensive Planning Manager (re: Mississippi River Crossing)  
Melissa Barnes, Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) North Area Engineer  
Eric Wojchik, Metropolitan Council Senior Planner/Sector Representative  
Freya Thamman, Metropolitan Council Senior Planner/Sector Representative  
Scott Marek, WSB; Ramsey Consulting Transportation Planner  
Breanne Rothstein, WSB; Ramsey Consulting Planner  
Eric Maass, WSB; Ramsey Consulting Planner

Enclosures: Ramsey Future Land Use Map  
Ramsey TAZ Allocations